

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH--WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1887.

POLITICAL.

THE MASSACHUSETTS DEMOCRATS IN STATE CONVENTION.

Nomination of State Officers--The Party's Platform Adopted--Cleveland's Administration Endorsed.

(By telegraph to the Dispatch.)

WORCESTER, MASS., September 20.—The day opened bright and pleasant, and at an early hour politicians were astir and Massachusetts Democrats invaded the hotel corridors. Every train was loaded with delegates, who repared upon their arrival to the Bay State House, where the informal gathering occurred in the corridors. All wore ribbons bearing the name and picture of their favorite, and it was noticeable that Lowering colors predominated.

The Russell men held a meeting in a hall opposite and selected tellers. The postmasters of Worcester county held a convention in National Hotel Hall, and it was settled that they would take some action on the "Smelling Committee's" report. But it was ascertained that they only met to select delegates to the National Postmasters' Convention. The Committee on Resolutions met this morning and revised the platform. The talk was unanimous in favor of dropping the "Smelling Committee's" report.

The ticket will undoubtedly be headed by Henry B. Lowering, with Walter E. Cuttig for second place.

The Russell men propose to have a contest, but the indications point strongly in favor of the Lyman congressional.

The convention will be the largest that has ever been held in this city, as delegates present number fully 1,500.

A 120 Chairman P. A. Collins, of the State Central Committee, with Senator Alger, succeeded the platform in the Mechanics' Hall and the convention was called to order by Mr. Collins. Secretary Alger read the call, after which a temporary organization was effected with P. A. Collins chairman; Updike R. Alger secretary. Committees were then appointed.

The Committee on Permanent Organization reported as follows: Chairman, James H. French, of Gloucester; S. J. Sieley, A. B. Alger, and P. J. Donavan, of Boston, and P. J. Kennedy, of Holyoke, secretaries. Chairman Collins then appointed a committee to escort Mr. French to the platform. He was received with great applause and addressed the convention.

At the conclusion of Mr. French's remarks the report of the Committee on Credentials was received. Senator Alger seconded the motion of Dr. Lowering for Governor and E. A. Ward nominated William E. Russell. An informal ballot was then ordered. It resulted as follows: Whole number, 1,031; necessary for a choice, 501; Lowering, 638; Russell, 363. The ballot was declared formal and Mr. Lowering announced as the nominee unanimously. Adjourned to 2:15 P. M.

The convention reassembled at 2:40 P. M., and proceeded to elect four delegates-at-large to the National Democratic Convention.

The Committee on Balance of Ticket reported as follows: Lieutenant-Governor, Walter E. Cuttig, of Pittsfield; Secretary of State, John F. Murphy, of Lowell; Treasurer, Henry C. Thaxter, of Yarmouth; Attorney-General, Wm. Corcoran, of Clinton; Auditor, William F. Cooke, of Springfield.

The report was received and the vote taken unanimously carried.

THE FIRE BOYS.

embarasses trade and may be the cause of disastrous financial crises. We do not advocate free trade, but favor and desire a revision of the present unjust and burdensome tariff laws. We heartily approve of the following recommendation of the President: "The increasing and unnecessary surplus should be released to the people by an amendment to our revenue laws which shall cheapen the price of the necessities of life and give the people more time and imported materials as may be needed to manufacture into marketable commodities." We believe the income derived by the Government from the internal revenue tax should be applied to discharge the burdens imposed on the people by the late acts.

We cordially approve of those acts of Congress which forbid the importation of contract labor, and require the return of disreputable, vicious, and criminal persons. But we welcome the honest and industrious immigrant who comes with the intent to secure for himself and children a honest place of refuge from despotism.

The sixth plank extends sympathy to the people of Ireland.

The seventh demands the abolition of the poll tax of the State.

We acknowledge our obligations to the wage-earners and pledge to them our earnest efforts in procuring such legislation as will best promote their interests. We cordially approve of the legislative act making labor-day a legal holiday, and commend its general observance.

The veterans of the Union armies and the navy are entitled to liberal consideration in the appointments in the civil service of the Government. Those who are helpless, and the widows and minor children of those who have passed away are the wards of the nation, and as such should receive from the people that generous care which will protect them from want and suffering.

THE FIRE BOYS.

ANNUAL Meeting of the National Association of Engineers.

(By telegraph to the Dispatch.)

ATLANTA, GA., September 20.—The fifteenth annual session of the National Association of Fire Engineers opened this morning at 10 o'clock with public exercises at De Givry's Opera-House. The proceedings were opened with an appropriate prayer by Rev. G. B. Strickler, after which Dr. B. D. Spalding welcomed the convention to Atlanta and Georgia. He explained that Governor Gordon was absent on account of an important call, but had directed before the convention adjourned to be present and address the men who were engaged in such a great work.

Chief W. E. Jayner made a short speech of welcome. He then introduced Hon. John Tyler Cooper, mayor of Atlanta, who welcomed them on behalf of the city.

President Steele, of Providence, R. I., introduced ex-Chief B. B. McCool of Fitchville, Pa., who responded to the address of welcome on behalf of the convention.

Mr. McCool then called out Master Richard Joyner, son of Chief Joyner, and on behalf of the convention, presented him with a freedom's hat and an elegant bouquet. Master Joyner accepted the gifts in a most speech, after which he addressed the audience and counseled them to not call upon their subscriptions until the road is completed to Danville.

There was a general ovation on the steam ferries on the lake.

The Southern and Western railroad is now running two mail trains daily from this port—one in the morning and one in the evening.

Considerable sickness of a malignant type is reported in Norfolk county.

The sailors continue on a strike, the large ship-owners refusing to give the advance demanded.

PERIODS THAT HAVE PASSED.

Governor Fitchburg Lee's Eloquence in Tribute to the Dead of the Ship of State.

(By telegraph to the Dispatch.)

Chairman Pepper introduced Governor Fitchburg Lee as the best-living representative of the great State of Virginia, which took such an important part in framing the Constitution. When the Governor approached the platform, the entire audience rose to their feet and applauded enthusiastically. Governor Lee then said:

"Your Excellency, the President of the United States, Mr. Chairman—In selecting a speaker to respond to the toast just read I recognize a compliment to the great Commonwealth of Virginia, tendered not only for the prominent part she took in the events which framed the Federal Constitution. Our eyes are rising to see if this nation can be advanced beyond the horizon; and good old Dr. Franklin said, as he sat there, that he had always understood it was difficult for the painter to so paint the sun close to the horizon that they would be able to tell whether the sun was rising or setting. But, said he, 'the world is full of artifice.'

The report of the steam ferries on the lake.

The Soo Canal and Muskegon railroad was declared formal and Mr. Lowering announced as the nominee unanimously. Adjourned to 2:15 P. M.

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The report was received and the vote taken unanimously carried.

THE PLATINUM.

After a short debate the resolutions were unanimously adopted, as follows:

1. The Democrats of Massachusetts, in convention assembled, congratulate their fellow-countrymen that under the administration of a Democratic President peace, concord, and fraternity have been restored and prevail throughout the land; that the rights of every citizen under the national laws are safely maintained without regard to race, creed, or color; that an economical, honest, and wise financial policy has advanced the credit of the country and the accumulation in the national Treasury of vast sums remains; thus has it served. The party, however, that has recklessly granted to corrupt money-lenders has been restored to the people; that the Constitution and the Union have again become the pride of every American, and recognized as the sources of individual liberty and national progress, prosperity, and honor, and a fourthly, that we are blessed in having a national President who knows "no North, no South, no East, no West," but discharges the duties of his exalted station in direct conformity to the Constitution and the laws, and with unwavering fidelity to his convictions of what is right and for the best interests of the whole people.

2. As Democrats we return our thanks to the President for his adherence to the promises and pledges made on his behalf before election, for his fidelity to the principles enunciated by the convention that placed him in nomination, and for demonstrating the wisdom of those principles when applied to the practical administration of the Government. As citizens we give him our thanks for an honest and economical administration in action; in fine, an administration which has enhanced the honor and dignity of the nation, renewed our faith in the capacity of a free people for self-government, and added new lustre to the nation of American citizens. As Democrats and citizens we pledge to him and his Administration our unqualified support.

3. Being an unquestioned principle that the business of government should be conducted with the same care as personal business matters, therefore we believe that no business can be successfully carried on unless those engaged in its prosecution set a good example.

4. We believe that no business should be transacted in public service which is not representative of the Administration; that all other offices not representative of the character should be filled by persons selected for their fitness, capacity, and integrity; that the dispensing of patronage should be left to the discretion of our public men not to the instrument of their ambition. We believe that no officer should be retained in public service which shows himself to be an open partisan, and we think as a piece of propriety to the Administration of which they are a part, requires the Federal officers holding a position of responsibility to withdraw from the Inter-State Commission and the State to discharge from the public service any of their subordinate against whom charges of offensive partnership can be substantiated.

5. We believe that the power of Congress to tax the people is limited by the Constitution to the requirements of the Government; that any system of taxation which produces a revenue beyond that is unwise and dangerous. It throws unnecessary burdens on the people and enhances the cost of living; it encourages needless and extravagant expenditures from general circumscription, and by so doing creates a scheme for human government. Oh my friends, what an anxious period that was! We have been while divisions charging at the heights, while both

embarrasses trade and may be the cause of disastrous financial crises.

We do not advocate free trade, but favor and desire a revision of the present unjust and burdensome tariff laws.

We heartily approve of the following recommendation of the President: "The increasing and unnecessary surplus should be released to the people by an amendment to our revenue laws which shall cheapen the price of the necessities of life and give the people more time and imported materials as may be needed to manufacture into marketable commodities."

We believe the income derived by the Government from the internal revenue tax should be applied to discharge the burdens imposed on the people by the late acts.

6. We cordially approve of those acts of Congress which forbid the importation of contract labor, and require the return of disreputable, vicious, and criminal persons. But we welcome the honest and industrious immigrant who comes with the intent to secure for himself and children a honest place of refuge from despotism.

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